

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00615 281721Z

62

ACTION L-03

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SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON WEAPONS

FOLLOWING IS ICRC PRESS RELEASE NO. 1257B OF 28 JANUARY 1976
CONCERNING SUBJECT CONFERENCE. QUOTE:

SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON WEAPONS
OPENS AT LUGANO

GENEVA (CICR) - THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF GOVERN-
MENT EXPERTS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, CONVENED
BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) OPENED
ON 28 JANUARY IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE AT LUGANO. THE SESSION,
ATTENDED BY SOME 120 LEGAL, MILITARY AND MEDICAL EXPERTS FROM
ABOUT 40 COUNTRIES, WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 26 FEBRUARY.

AT THE OPENING MEETING, PRESIDED OVER BY MR. JEAN PICTET, VICE-
PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC AND PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, SPEAKERS
INCLUDED MR. BENITO BERNASCONI, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL
OF THE CANTON OF TESSIN, MR. FERRUCCIO PELLI, MAYOR OF LUGANO,
AND DR. ERIC MARTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00615 281721Z

THE THREE SPEAKERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD
ARRIVE AT CONCRETE AND POSITIVE RESULTS.

DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE AT LUCERNE IN 1974,
THE EXPERTS, AFTER WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS, DREW UP A LIST
OF WEAPONS TO BE STUDIED, INCLUDING INCENDIARY WEAPONS, SMALL-
CALIBRE PROJECTILES WITH HIGH MUZZLE VELOCITY, BLAST AND
FRAGMENTATION WEAPONS, DELAYED-ACTION WEAPONS AND WEAPONS OF
THE FUTURE.

AT LUGANO, THE EXPERTS WILL ATTEMPT TO DEFINE RULES AIMED AT
LIMITING OR FORBIDDING THE USE OF SUCH WEAPONS WITH PARTICULARLY
CRUEL EFFECTS. UNQUOTE. DALE

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